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UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

August 19, 1964

MEMORANDUM

TO : (See Distribution)

FROM : ACDA/IR - Richard B. Freund *fbt*

SUBJECT: Possible U.K. Participation in CLOUD GAP Field Tests

On ~~August 13, 1964~~, an officer of the British Embassy, acting under instructions from London, diffidently inquired whether we would consider allowing limited British participation in some of our CLOUD GAP tests. The Embassy officer added that should our response be positive, London was not certain whether the U.K. would have available the qualified military or scientific personnel. I undertook to obtain a U.S. response.

Mr. Foster has been consulted and his initial reaction was favorable, but subject to consideration among the Departments and Agencies concerned. On the basis of soundings I have taken among a number of the addressees of this memorandum, there seems to be a consensus in the view that, with certain provisos, limited U.K. participation in CLOUD GAP tests should be invited.

Your concurrence in such an invitation is requested with the following conditions:

(1) U.K. participation should be invited in specific projects rather than in blanket fashion.

(2) The plans for each test should be examined to see whether, on grounds of the classification of information

Group 3  
Downgraded at 12 year  
intervals; not auto-  
matically declassified.

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involved, or the question of private commercial interests of facilities involved, U.K. participation is appropriate. (With respect to U.S. defense activities, it is understood that the U.K. and U.S. already engage in extremely close collaboration and that exchange of highly classified information already covers a large number of sensitive fields.)

(3) Any U.K. participation should be active rather than constituting solely observation, particularly since some of our tests might benefit from having the views of a non-American freely expressed.

(4) To the extent that they are eligible to have access to classified information involved, the Governments of Canada and Italy should also be permitted to send participants, but only if they initiate requests. (Foreign participation, while not being kept secret, will be given no publicity and foreign participants will be requested to wear civilian clothes).

(5) Foreign participation would be limited for the present to the U.K., Canada, and Italy, on the grounds that they are active participants with us in the Geneva disarmament negotiations and are therefore directly concerned with detailed verification problems. This decision, however, would not bar future consideration of participation by other NATO allies should they request it. The matter is simply left open for the moment, but we must guard against the overloading of CLOUD GAP tests with foreign personnel, many of whose governments have no active programs for studying and developing verification systems. Moreover, German and French reactions to U.S. proposals on a SNEV freeze and observation posts suggest that their purposes in sending participants might not be altogether constructive.

(6) Your concurrence in the foregoing would be subject to approval by Mr. Foster of the basic policy, while decisions on foreign participation in any specific tests would

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be made by the CLOUD GAP Steering Committee and cleared with the appropriate offices of the Department of State.

Your response would be appreciated by August 28.

cc: Mr. Foster  
Mr. Beam

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